



Department of Roads

For Immediate Release

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Macomb County Department of Roads Recognizes National Work Zone Awareness Week

As the Macomb County Department of Roads kicks off road construction season, we join with road agencies throughout the country in recognizing the 2011 National Work Zone Awareness Week on April 4 – 8.

"Safety has always been a top priority for the Sheriff and Roads Departments," said Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel. "This awareness week is a great reminder for all to bring work zone safety to the forefront and use caution on our roads at all times."

Statistics suggest that this effort is having a positive effect on safety. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System, the number of work zone fatalities has decreased in the United States every year since 2002. Data show that crashes in work zones caused 720 fatalities in 2008. That figure represents a 39 percent decrease from 2002, when 1,186 work zone fatalities occurred.

"While these statistics have shown a steady decrease in work zone fatalities, we need everyone's participation to keep this trend going," said Bob Hoepfner, Director of Roads. "The safety of our employees, contractors and motorists is our number one priority. We ask motorists to slow down, buckle up, drive sober, pay attention, and at all times, drive as if their lives depend on it."

This national campaign, now in its 11th year, is recognized at the start of the construction season to attract attention to work zones and the need to drive carefully through construction sites on our roads. The theme of this year's campaign is "Safer Driving. Safer Work Zones. For Everyone."

A YouTube public service announcement is available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4grWrlZcM>

Ten Tips for Driving Safely in Work Zones

1. Expect the unexpected
2. Slow down
3. Don't tailgate
4. Keep a safe distance between you and the car ahead of you
5. Pay attention to the signs
6. Obey road crew flaggers
7. Stay alert and minimize distractions
8. Keep up with traffic flow
9. Schedule enough time to drive safely and check radio, TV and Web sites for traffic information.
10. Be patient and stay calm

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